

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The office action dated November 5, 2003 has been received, and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 10-17, and 20-26 remain in the application with claims 1, 3, 4, 7 10-12, 17 amended and claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 18, and 19 canceled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1 and 7 as being unclear. The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention; claims 7-10 and 17-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between necessary structural connections; claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,198,519 to Chang (hereinafter “Chang”); claims 1-4, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,050,830 to Tanaka (hereinafter “Tanaka”); claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Japanese Patent Application No. JP-05-265021 to Sakaguchi et al. (hereinafter “Sakaguchi”); claims 5, 6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view U.S. Patent No. 6,054,975 to Kurokawa et al. (hereinafter “Kurokawa”); claims 5, 6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Kurokawa; claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view Japanese Patent Application No. JP-10-170883 to Kondo et al. (hereinafter “Kondo”); claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view Kondo; claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang; claims 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurokawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,559 to Inada et al. (hereinafter “Inada”); claims 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurokawa in view of Sakamoto; and claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurokawa in view of Sakamota, and further in view of Kondo.

The objection to claims 1 and 7 as unclear is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to overcome this objection.

The rejection of claim 3 under U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 3 has been amended, and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection. The rejection of claims 7-10 and 17-26 under U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 7 and 17 have been amended, and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

The rejection of claims 1 and 7 under U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, a tape carrier package “wherein said tape carrier package is bonded in a bent state between the liquid crystal display panel and the printed circuit board”. Claim 7 is allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, a tape carrier package “wherein said tape carrier package is bonded in a bent state between the liquid crystal display panel and the substrate”. Chang does not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention as admitted by the examiner. (See page 6.) Further to the extent that the Examiner rejected claim 5 which has been canceled and whose limitations have been incorporated into claim 1, claim 1 is allowable over Chang and Kurokawa. The Examiner states with regard to Kurakawa: “It may be implied that the TCP is bent and output pads are in a plane state as part of the mounting procedure.” Because a tape carrier package, which is typically flexible, may bend during the mounting procedure, it does not mean that the tape carrier package ends up bonded in a bent state. A similar limitation has been included in amended claim 7. Therefore, claims 1 and 7 are allowable over Chang and Kurokawa, either singly or in combination.

The rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 under U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, a tape carrier package “wherein said tape carrier package is bonded in a bent state between the liquid crystal display panel and the printed circuit board”. Claim 7 is allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, a tape carrier package “wherein said tape carrier package is bonded in a bent state between the liquid crystal display panel and the substrate”. Tanaka does not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

The rejection of claims 12, 14, and 15 under U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 12, 14, and 15 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, a tape carrier package “wherein the tape carrier package is bonded in a bent state between a liquid crystal display and a printed circuit board mounted with circuits generating driving signals for driving the liquid crystal display panel”. Kurakawa does not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

The rejection of claims 3-4, 10-11, 13, and 16 under U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. These claims were rejected based upon Chang, Tanaka, or Kurakawa in combination with Sakaguchi, Kurakawa, Kondo, or Inada. These claims, except claim 11, depend from claims 1, 7, and 12. As discussed above, Chang, Tanaka, and Kurakawa lack features claimed in claims 1, 7, and 12, and these missing features are not taught or suggested when Chang, Tanaka, or Kurakawa are combined with Sakaguchi, Kurakawa, Kondo, or Inada as suggested by the Examiner. Further, claim 11 has features similar to those in claims 1, 7, and 12 that are not present in the prior art. Therefore claims 3-4, 10-11, 13, and 16 are allowable over the cited art.

The rejection of claims 17 and 20-25 under U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 17 and 20-25 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, a tape carrier package “wherein the tape carrier package is in a bent state between the printed circuit board and the substrate”. As discussed above, Kurokawa does not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Further, Kurokawa and Sakamoto, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

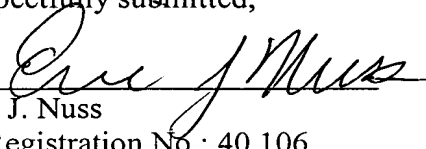
The rejection of claim 26 under U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 26 is allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, a tape carrier package “wherein the tape carrier package is in a bent state between the printed circuit board and the substrate”. As discussed above, Kurokawa does not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Further, Kurokawa and Sakamoto, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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